

# THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarterly

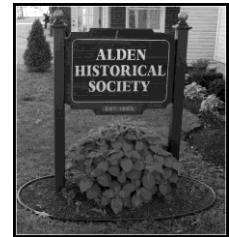
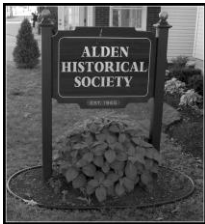
aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

April 2015

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer-supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.

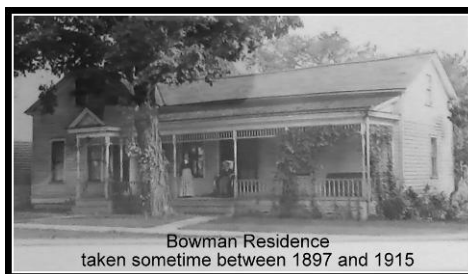
## *A Golden Anniversary Alden Historical Society*



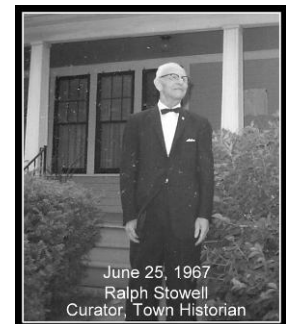
*Fifty years ago, on April 21, 1965, a small group of dedicated citizens met at the school to form an historical society that would perpetuate the history of the town, collect information and gather artifacts in the hope that someday there would be a place where such items could be preserved and displayed.*



Jackie Hojnicky, 1<sup>st</sup> Pres.  
Beverly Nebrich, 1<sup>st</sup> Treas.



Early photo of the present Alden Historical Society building at 13213 Broadway, Alden NY.



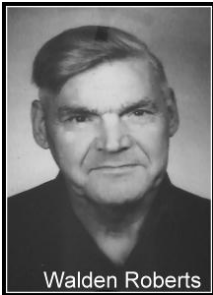
Ralph Stowell, 1<sup>st</sup> Curator

Charles Neuman of the Marilla Historical Society was an invaluable help in organizing the fledgling group, as was Julia B. Reinstein, Cheektowaga Town Historian. The first officers were: President, Jackie Hojnicky (photo above); Vice-President, Mervin Bontrager; Secretary, Betty Frey and Treasurer, Beverly Nebrich (photo above). Ralph D. Stowell was appointed Curator (photo above). Having no meeting place, the group met in various places, including the Municipal Building. They kept a file cabinet at the Ewell Free Library.

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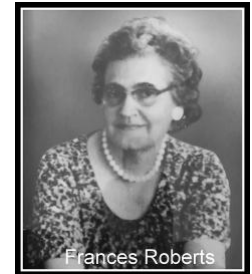


At the September 1965 meeting, Walter Dunn, Erie County Historian spoke and offered suggestions as to projects for the group. He encouraged them to begin working on plans for the 1969 Village Centennial and, as they gathered artifacts, to display them in public places; thus began a series of displays in office and store windows. Ralph D. Stowell offered his barn for the storage of artifacts.



Walden Roberts

At the October 19, 1966, meeting of the Society, Walden Roberts announced that he had purchased the home of Alice Roberts at 13213 Broadway and deeded it to the Town of Alden with the stipulation that it be used by the Historical Society as a museum. The first meeting in the building was held on February 1, 1967. Members were asked to bring their own chairs! The building was dedicated in May 1967, in memory of Frances Roberts, wife of Walden, who had been a charter member of the Society.



Frances Roberts



Speaker, Julia Reinstein 1971

Julia Reinstein had suggested that the Society apply for a charter from the New York State Board of Regents and the Trustees did so, signing the petition on the old Town Line Secession desk. A provisional charter was granted on June 23, 1967. Fifty-three people were listed as charter members. The permanent charter was granted September 25, 1970 and formally presented Aug. 4, 1971.



The Society held an Easter Promenade in April 1969 as a kick-off to the Village Centennial. Citizens, young and old, dressed in period costumes and paraded in front of the Historical Society building. That year the building was open for visitors during the week-long celebration in July and Society members created a display at the Erie County Fair entitled "One Hundred Years Ago In Alden." Many Fair displays would follow in ensuing years.



August 2, 1971  
Black Water Baths Marker Dedication  
Shirley Scott, Ralph Stowell, Don Donnelly,  
Christian Muchow (with veil), Nathan Sweet,  
Unknown, Unknown, William Scott,

The first historical marker was unveiled on April 21, 1971, at the site of the Original Black Water Baths, as part of Alden's celebration of the Erie County Sesquicentennial.

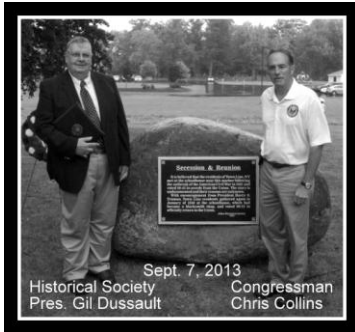
Then in 1975, Alden kicked off the nation's Bi-centennial celebration with the dedication of a marker placed at the site of Moffat's



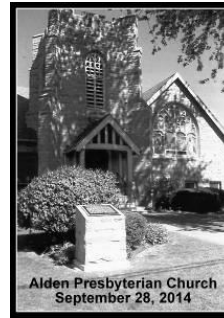
April 1975  
Norma Sweet

Ralph Stowell

Tannery on Broadway.



On September 7, 2013, a historical marker was placed in Town Line with information on Town Line's secession in 1861 and subsequent rejoining the Union in January of 1946.



On September 28, 2014, the Historical Society dedicated a marker to the Alden Presbyterian Church in commemoration of the church's more than 200 year history of serving the community. This is the oldest religious organization in Alden.

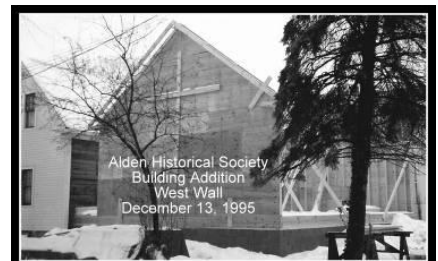
*In the early years of the Society, it was decided to have 15-20 minute talks on topics of interest. This portion of the monthly meeting grew longer and programs on a variety of subjects soon became a vital part of the meetings. The attendance at these programs soon outgrew the meeting space, which was the parlor of the house. A larger meeting room and more display and storage were needed. In 1975 the Society considered asking the Town to purchase the Art Roberts barbershop next door to use for storage and to hold books and files, and the Town Historian's office. This idea did not come to fruition.*



Bruce Sitzman presents check to President Nathan Sweet.  
Terry Clark and Norma Sweet, Treasurer stand by.



Then, in October 1989, the Society was given over \$26,000 from the Sesquicentennial Committee as seed money for an addition to Roberts' house. A series of fund raisers was begun to raise additional funds—the sale of models of Alden buildings, the sale



of buntings, and a massive mail appeal to the town's citizens and businesses. Lifetime memberships were offered to those who donated fifty dollars or more. The addition included a handicap ramp and entrance and lavatory with Charles Lynch as architect and Peter Skowron as contractor.

An open house for members was held on May 2, 1996, with an open house for the public the following day.

Photo shows the dedication of the Historical Society building addition on May 1996.



*L. to R.-Vi Savage, Bud Milligan, Ruth Davis, Rick Savage, Bob Smith, Paul Van Ornum, Jim Uebelhoer, Laura Airey, Norma Sweet, Shirley Scott*





Studebaker Wagon-June 1998  
Bob & Laura Airey, Ruth & Ralph Davis, Ross & Fred Blowers

Many changes have taken place in the original building over the years. Windows and doors have been closed in and shelves put in the openings for more display. The attic room has been finished for more display and storage space

Major repairs have been done to the front porch and one end has been enclosed to display the refurbished Studebaker buggy that has been a proud entry in many Alden parades.



The meeting room was designated the "Ruth Davis Room" in appreciation for her almost twenty years as curator and the driving force behind the addition.

#### The Ruth Davis Room

*We dedicate this room  
in recognition of her many years as  
devoted curator and visionary of the  
Alden Historical Society  
April 20, 2006*

With increased attendance at programs and nearly 5000 artifacts in the collection, more space was again needed. It was decided to move the programs to the Community Center, which had more seating and ample parking. More display cases were acquired for the Meeting Room, which is now called the Big Room.



Ms. Muchow with 5th Grade Class  
at the Alden Historical Society Bldg., 06/06/12

School tours have been a focus since the early days of the building. Today we host a day for fifth graders, who spend half the day at the building learning about Alden, and half the day at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse learning and experiencing life in a one-room school. Scout troops visit as do other



Mr. Matthies with 5th Grade Class  
at Henskee Road Schoolhouse, 06/06/12

organizations. With ever-changing displays, there is something new to see every time one visits.

*What will the next fifty years bring? While it is difficult to think of our smart phones, microwaves and tablets becoming historical artifacts, they will be to children in 2065. With your support and that of the generations to come, the Alden Historical Society will still be here to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.*

## Alden Historical Society Presidents

### Terms ran April to April:

1965-1966..... \*Jackie Hojnicky  
1966-1975..... \*Nathan E. Sweet, Jr.  
1975-1979..... \*Naoma Patrell  
1979-1984..... Joseph Anzalone  
1984-1986..... Sally Wood  
1986-1992..... \*Nathan E. Sweet, Jr.  
1992-1993..... \*Paul VanOrnum

1993-1995.....Randy Moyer  
1995-1998.....Laura Airey  
1998-2003.....Ron Savage

### Terms run December-December:

2003-2010.....Roberta Vincent  
2011-2014.....Gilbert Dussault  
2015-Present...Roberta Vincent

\* Deceased.

*Karen Muchow, Archivist*

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## DUES ARE DUE



Does time fly? Well, whatever the means of locomotion and wherever the ultimate destination, we've completed another entire year in record-tying time - namely, a year. Yes, March 31 is already in the past, and the yearly dues are due. We greatly appreciate the support of all our sustaining members, and welcome anyone to join us.



*Clarke Burke, Treasurer*

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## *Historic Marker Fund*



We have been most appreciative for the generous financial support we have received from our members and the public towards our Historic Marker projects. Because of their support we

have been successful in completing two very distinct marker projects that have drawn significant acclaim. The Town Line Secession project in 2013 and Alden Presbyterian Church project in 2014 have demonstrated our commitment and upheld our promise to be good stewards of the many contributions we received.

The completion of the two projects have enabled us to comply and honor the dictate in our constitution to place markers of historic interest in our community of Alden.

As you might expect we have spent some meaningful funds for the two projects. At this time we need to once again appeal to our members and public for financial support. We have a number of potential choices for our third project. It was hoped that we would be able to complete one project a year but at this point we will not be able to do that until we replenish the fund.

*If you agree that it is important to protect and preserve the history of our beloved town then I would ask you to help us with a contribution to the Historic Marker Fund. No gift is too big.....no gift is too small. When we put it all together it becomes very meaningful and both you and the Historical Society will play an important part in the process. Thank you.*

*Gil Dussault, Chairman*

## President's Message

### Alden Historical Society to Celebrate 50 Years in 2015



Alden Historical Society is extremely proud to be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wishes to invite you to three special events this spring.



**SAVE THE DATE:  
MAY 30**

The first is our Anniversary Dinner on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Whistle Stop Inn. The cost for the buffet dinner is \$20.

More details will be sent to you. The program will feature an honoring of our past presidents and trustees.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
APRIL 19**

The second event is the April 19th opening of a display of photos and articles about our past fifty years and a display

of some of our first accessed artifacts, available for viewing in the Historical Society building at 13123 Broadway.

The celebration continues with a very special Anniversary program on June 11<sup>th</sup> in the Community Center. Come celebrate with us.

**SAVE THE DATE  
JUNE 11**

*We are looking for ideas from our membership or from the general public to help us make this a memorable event.*

*Please forward any ideas by leaving a phone message at (716) 937-3700, or by dropping us a line at Alden Historical Society, 13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004.*

Be sure to check the Alden Advertiser and/or our Facebook page for announcements of "special events" to commemorate our anniversary.

*Roberta Vincent., President*

## REMINDERS



Annual dues are due by April 1st.  
Refer to page 7



While life members are exempt from paying annual dues, we welcome any donations they may wish to make. Such donations will be added to our historical marker fund.



Annual dues are due by April 1st.  
Refer to page 7

## WANTED: HISTORICAL SOCIETY CURATOR

The Alden Historical Society is currently seeking someone to fill the vacancy for our volunteer Curator position. The Curator is responsible for storing historic objects; for arranging interpretation of these exhibits and recording materials. If you have a love for local skills, and are willing to volunteer some of Alden's history, please contact us at 937-3700 or email us at [AldenHistSoc@gmail.com](mailto:AldenHistSoc@gmail.com). Thank you!



*Chris Gust., Trustee*

## *With Deepest Sympathy*

### *Marge Matuszewski*

The Alden Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Marge Matuszewski, who passed away on January 27, 2015. Devoted wife of the late Gerald Matuszewski; dear mother of Marylou (Duane) Moot, Anthony Matuszewski, Rose (Manuel) Quizon and Nancy (Nick) Demarco; also survived by eight grandchildren. Marge is sadly missed at our monthly program meetings.

## WELCOME MEMBERS

### RENEWED MEMBERS:

Carol & Conrad Borucki  
June & Brian Dussault  
Michelle Dussault  
Sue Galbraith

### RENEWED MEMBERS:

Kristen & Ron Kavanaugh  
Ann & Carl Matthies  
Sheila Metzger  
Nancy & Norm Taylor

### DONATIONS IN LIEU OF DUES:

Wendy & Chris Koelbl, III  
Catherine Cyrulik

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make check payable as noted below.

**Please note that the membership year runs from April 1 through March 31, with annual payment due by April 1.**

Thank you for your support.

### DUES

Single .....\$12.00	Name.....
Couple .....\$20.00	Address .....
Family.....\$25.00	.....
Business.....\$50.00	Phone.....Email.....

A check payable to: *ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY* may be mailed to:

Debbie Crist, Membership Secretary  
Alden Historical Society  
13213 Broadway  
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

*Please remember the Alden Historical Society in your estate plans.*

*A bequest in your memory or in memory of someone you love can help preserve the heritage of our community.*

[aldenhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:aldenhistsoc@gmail.com)

Phone 937-3700

### *General Fund and Other Donors*

Recently the Alden Historical Society has received generous donations from the following:

#### Historical Marker Fund

#### General Fund

Cornelia & Douglas Cartwright  
Laura Loehr

#### General Fund

Joan Gadd  
CatherineCyrulik

#### General Fund

Please be advised that donations to the Alden Historical Society are not tax deductible since it is not a 501(c)(3) organization.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Historical Society Building, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden Sate Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

### HOURS:

The Alden Historical Society Building is open to the public from 1 PM to 3 PM the first and third Sunday of each month except during January and February. Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700, 937-6400.

### MEETINGS:

**Program meetings** are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Notices will be published in the Alden Advertiser in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting. Many times a guest speaker is present. You are very welcome to come, share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, and enjoy an informal social complete with homemade refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the lead of the Alden school system, postponing when after school programs are closed.

**Trustee meetings** are normally held at the Alden Historical Building at 7:00 pm. **Please note:** Trustee meetings are temporarily being held on the **second Tuesday of the month** in February, April, June, August, October, and December (even months). Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

#### 2015 Officers

**President** – Roberta Vincent

**Vice President** – Chris Gust

**Secretary** - Diane Casell

**Treasurer**- Clarke Burke

#### Ex-Officio Appointments

**Curator** - vacant

**Archivist** - Karen Muchow

#### Committee Chairs and members

**Membership** - Debbie Crist

**Collections** - Larry Kocher

**Publicity/Newsletter** - Elli DeFilippo; Chris Gust, Carl Matthies, and Clarke Burke

**Program/Refreshments** – Conrad & Carol Borucki / Sandy Dussault

**Building and Ground** - Larry Kocher / Chris Gust

**Fundraising** - Gil Dussault

**Nominating** - Elli DeFilippo and Jane Burke

**Audit** - Chris Gust ; Clarke Burke and Larry Kocher

**Budget** - Clarke Burke; Larry Kocher and Chris Gust

**Historical Marker/Signs** - Gil Dussault

**Erie County Fair** - Conrad Borucki

**Town Historian** – Karen Muchow

#### 2015 Trustees

Conrad Borucki

Clarke Burke

Diane Casell

Debbie Crist

Elli DeFilippo

Gil Dussault

Chris Gust

Larry Kocher

Carl Matthies

Jennifer Strong

Roberta Vincent

### ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATES TO REMEMBER SPRING 2015

PROGRAM MEETINGS Alden Community Center 7 PM	TRUSTEE MEETINGS Alden Historical Society Building at 7 PM
APRIL 9..... <u>The Sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i></u>	APRIL 7..... <u>Members Invited</u>
MAY 14..... <u>Buffalo's Grain Elevators</u>	
JUNE 11..... <u>Happy Birthday to Us</u>	JUNE 9..... <u>Members Invited</u>



# MONTHLY PROGRAMS

April 9, 2015 ..... **THE SINKING OF THE LUSITANIA**



*Lusitania* at the end of the first leg of her maiden voyage, New York City, Sept. 1907.

On May 7, 1915, the liner *Lusitania*, travelling from the United States to Great Britain was torpedoed by a German submarine. The ship sank in just eighteen minutes, taking 1,198 of the 2,000 people aboard, 128 of whom were Americans.

Was there justification for the attack on the part of the Germans? Were the Americans truly neutral, as they maintained? What of the cargo *Lusitania* carried?

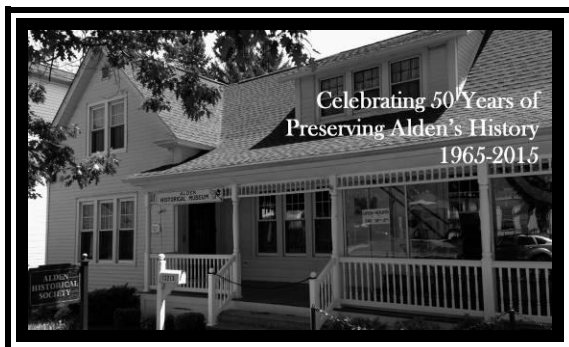
Greg Kinal, popular speaker and educator, will revisit the *Lusitania* on this, the centennial year of its sinking, and address some of the questions still associated with the attack.

May 14, 2015 ..... **CELEBRATE BUFFALO'S GRAIN ELEVATORS**



At one time in Buffalo's history, the grain elevators dominated the waterfront's skyline and proclaimed Buffalo's industrial importance to the world. WNY educator June Justice Crawford will examine the glory days of Buffalo and these concrete monuments. She will further discuss the present and future status of the elevators and their surrounding area. This program is one that was originally scheduled in January.

June 11, 2015..... **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!**



The year is 1965. SpaghettiOs are first sold. Pampers, disposable diapers, are patented.

The Pillsbury Doughboy makes his first public appearance and would you believe -----

## **OUR OWN ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS BORN!**

Our society is 50  
intend to celebrate.  
we relive and  
with special guests  
surprises.



years old this year, and we  
You are cordially invited as  
highlight events of our past  
and many planned

*Conrad and Carol Borucki Program Committee*

## BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Cooke & Steffan, Attorneys**

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 Ph: (716) 937-9111  
 Email: tsteffan@cookeandstefan.com



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**Michael W. Cole**  
 Attorney and Counselor at Law

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 (716) 937-9150  
 Fax (716) 937-9580  
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**Randall R. Smith, RPh**  
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[www.facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety)

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 13213 BROADWAY  
 ALDEN, NY 14004

[www.alden.erie.gov](http://www.alden.erie.gov)



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 New York State Education Department  
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